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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,530	05/15/2001	Reto Sieber	F 6817	5031

7590
Jordan and Hamburg
122 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168

06/11/2007

EXAMINER

AHMAD, NASSER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/762,530	Applicant(s) SIEBER ET AL.	
	Examiner Nasser Ahmad	Art Unit 1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 16-19 and 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 16-19 and 21-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/5/2007 has been entered.

Rejections Withdrawn

2. Claims 11, 16-19 and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal (GB: 2063710) made in the Office Action of 11/9/2206 has been withdrawn in view of the amendment filed on 4/5/2007.
3. Claims 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal in view of Su (5462782) made in the Office Action of 11/9/2206 has been withdrawn in view of the amendment filed on 4/5/2007.
4. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal (GB: 2063710) made in the Office Action of 11/9/2206 has been withdrawn in view of the amendment filed on 4/5/2007.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11, 16-19, 21-32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter

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which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 11, 27 and 32, the phrase "pattern on the entire top surface" is found to be new matter as it lacks support in the specification as originally filed. The specification teaches the presence of adhesive and striped patterns thereof, but no support could be found for the above phrase "on the entire top surface".

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 11, 16-19, 21-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11 and 32, the phrase "adhesive coatings exposed" (claim 11, lines 18-19 and claim 32, lines 19-20) is found to be confusing because the coated top surface is covered by a removable cover film (claim 11, lines 15-16 and claim 32, lines 16-17).

Claim 27, as stated, is found to be indefinite because it is unclear as to how is the floor covering adhered to the top surface when it is covered by a removable cover.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 11, 16-19, 21-28 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal (GB: 2063710).

Marchal relates to a self-adhesive sheet (see figure-2) consisting of a backing layer (11) having a top surface and a bottom surface, a first pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) (11B) coating in a first pattern on the entire top surface of said backing and the coated top surface being planar, and a second PSA (11A) coating coated in a second adhesive pattern, that is the same as the first pattern, on the bottom surface of the backing layer and the coated bottom surface being planar. The backing layer comprises a polymer film or a textile sheet arranged on the top surface of the backing such as when treated to make it impermeable (page-2, lines 116-119). The textile structure would include weave of intersecting threads and hence, a meshed arrangement

The adhesive pattern provided on the top surface and the bottom surface would provide for different adhesive strengths of the two PSAs because the bottom adhesive surface includes strips 13 which provides for different adhesive strength. As shown in figure-1, the adhesive sheet has a removable cover film (3) adhered to the top surface of the backing layer. The self-adhesive sheet has a certain width dimension. However, Marchal fails to teach that the minimum width of the sheet is 350 mm. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Marchal by providing its adhesive sheet to have a width of at least 350 mm, based on optimization through routine experimentation, as the reference is also directed to same area of application,

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that is, bonding floor covering to a floor as in the instant application and the coverage extent would be obvious optimization.

Marchal also relates to a method (claim 27) for bonding a floor covering to a floor comprising adhering the bottom surface of the adhesive sheet to a floor and adhering a floor covering to the top surface of the adhesive sheet (page-1, lines 5-12), wherein the floor covering can be a carpet.

Regarding the particular textile structure thread spacing of 3 to 30 mm, it would have been obvious to modify the textile mesh structure of Marchal to have the thread spacing of 3 to 30 mm, based on optimization through routine experimentation, to provide optimum structure to the backing layer.

The adhesive strength of the adhesive layers are different because of the different application, in that the second adhesive layer (11A) has stripes 13 which would provide the second adhesive to exhibit a strength lower than that of the first adhesive layer (11B) and the strength of 0.8 to 5 N (claims 16 and 22-23) would have been obvious based on optimization through routine experimentation.

The application rate (claim 17) of the adhesive in claims 17, 19 and 24 have not been given any patentable weight because the process conditions in product claims and are not found to be germane to the issue of patentability of the product itself.

12. Claims 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal in view of Su (5462782).

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Marchal, as discussed above, fails to teach that the backing layer polymer can be polyethylene. Su discloses a double-sided adhesive tape comprising a backing layer of polyethylene (abstract) to provide for strength to the structure. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Su's teaching of using a polyethylene backing as the backing layer in the invention of Marchal with the motivation to provide strength to the tape structure.

As for the floor covering being parquet, Marchal broadly teaches floor covering which would include all flooring material such carpet and parquet. Hence, it would have been obvious to use floor covering of carpet or parquet, as said floor covering material are deemed to be functionally equivalent and use of one for the other would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

13. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marchal. Marchal, as discussed above, fails to teach that the self-adhesive sheet comprises a second textile structure arranged on the bottom surface thereof. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide for the second textile structure on the bottom surface thereof for enhancing the reinforcing strength to the sheet, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

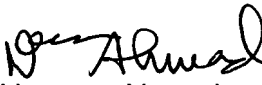
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

6/7/07

N. Ahmad.
June 7, 2007.